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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Outreach • Board of Trustees • Batavia Public Library District

Special Meeting

Friday • 17 April 2009

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Larson called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m. in the Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room of the Batavia Public Library.

2. **Call the Roll**

Committee Members Present: Maureen A. Jakubowski, Ann L. Larson, and Edward F. Skahan

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Trustees Present: None

Staff Members Present: Director George H. Scheetz, Michele M. Martzel, and Joanne C. Zillman

Visitors Present: None

3. **Approve the Agenda**

Motion by Trustee Jakubowski to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Skahan. All: Aye. The motion carried.

4. **Approve the Minutes:** Special Meeting, Friday, 9 January 2009

Trustee Larson asked whether there were any changes to the minutes, copies of which were included in the Committee packet.

Motion by Trustee Jakubowski to approve the minutes of the special meeting, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Skahan. All: Aye. The motion carried.

5. **Conservation: “Portrait of Sarah M. Gammon” (1876)**

A proposal to commission the restoration and conservation of the “Portrait of Sarah M. Gammon” (1876) and its frame was included in the Committee packet.

Trustee Larson presented a summary of the proposals from the Chicago Conservation Center and May Rose Melvin and expressed support for the former proposal. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed on the painting's historical importance and connection to Batavia. Director Scheetz reported that the artist, Theodore E. Pine, was a respected painter whose works are in the collection of prestigious museums, such as the Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His life-sized portrait of Robert E. Lee, known as the "Pine Portrait," is on display at Washington and Lee University. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed on the value of the painting and its frame. Director Scheetz described the painting's provenance. He noted that, according to the evaluation, the frame is gilded, but its beauty is now hidden by a coat of bronze-colored paint. Discussion followed.

In response to a question from Trustee Skahan, discussion followed on the value of the painting and its frame versus the cost of restoration. Trustee Skahan proposed that the Library commission an appraisal of the painting and its frame. Director Scheetz, who supported the appraisal, observed that such work would not be free of charge.

Discussion followed on storage fees charged by the Chicago Conservation Center, which are \$10.00 per month, effective 11 April 2009.

Director Scheetz suggested that the historic nature of the painting might encourage other organizations—such as the Friends of the Batavia Public Library, the Batavia Woman's Club, private donors, and the Batavia Historical Society—to contribute to its restoration.

In response to a question from Trustee Jakubowski, discussion followed on whether to commission the immediate restoration of the painting, and defer consideration of the frame's repair and restoration to the May meeting. The painting conservation fee (\$800) falls within the Library Director's authority to spend.

The consensus of the Committee supported the following direction to Director Scheetz:

- Commission an appraisal of the painting and its frame
- Determine the date of the frame, insofar as practicable
- Commission the Chicago Conservation Center to complete the painting conservation work at his discretion
- Solicit private contributions in support of the project

6. **Comments from the Committee**

Director Scheetz noted that the May meeting will be the last Committee meeting for Trustee Larson, as the new Board of Library Trustees will be seated on 19 May 2009.

There were no additional comments by the Committee.

7. **Next Meetings or Events**

- a. *Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 21 April 2009, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*
- b. *Standing Committee on Outreach, Friday, 8 May 2009, 7:30 a.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*
- c. *Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 19 May 2009, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*

8. **Adjournment**

Motion by Trustee Jakubowski to adjourn the special meeting. Seconded by Trustee Skahan. All: Aye. The motion carried.

Trustee Larson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. Scheetz
Director